SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

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559-12/23/03

MEETING OF THE

WATER POLICY TASK FORCE

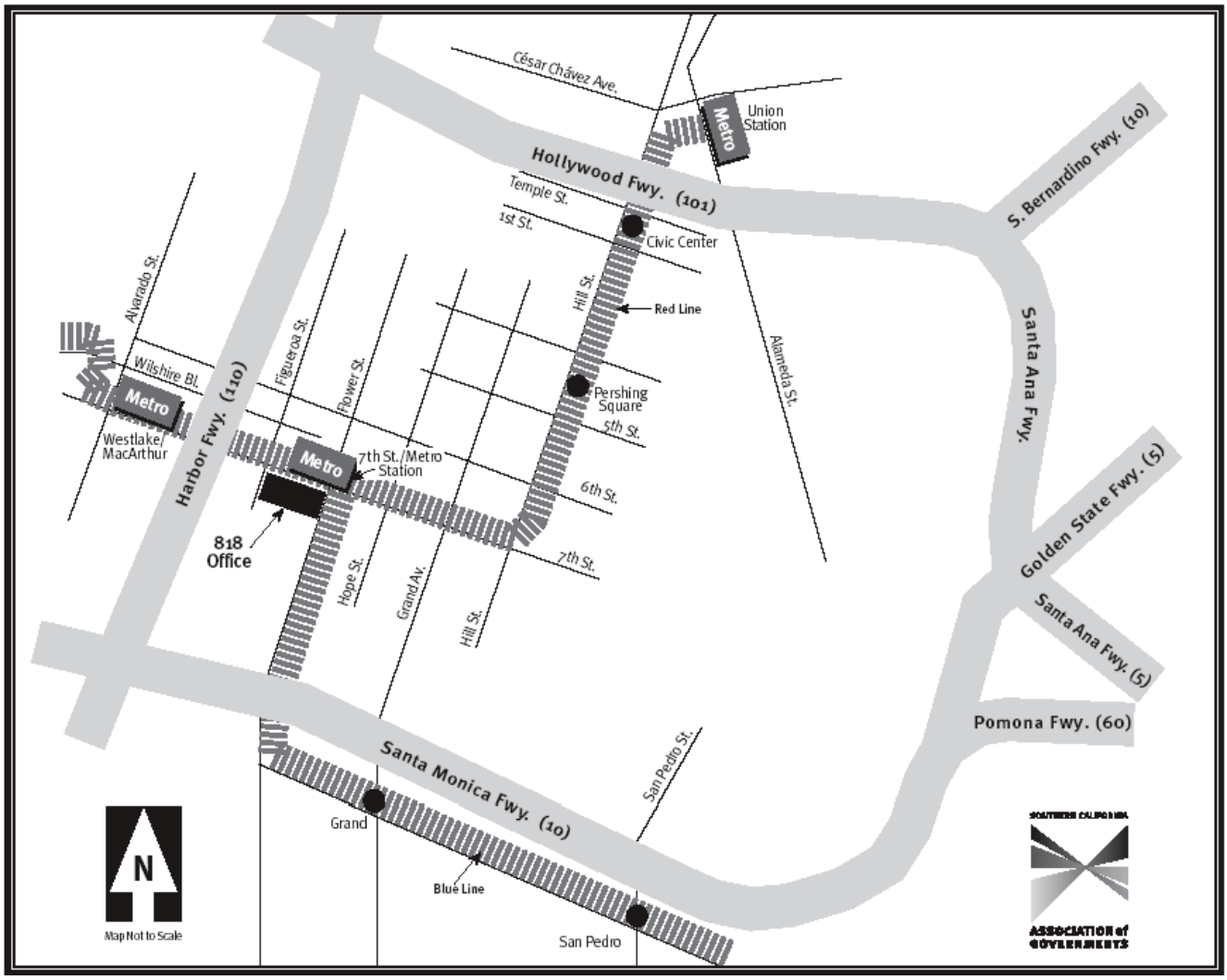
Thursday, February 12, 2004
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

SCAG Offices
818 W. 7th Street, 12th Floor
Riverside B Conference Room
Los Angeles, California 90017
213. 236.1800

Agenda & Map Enclosed

If members of the public wish to review the attachments or have any questions on any of the agenda items, please contact Dan Griset at 213.236.1895 or griset@scag.ca.gov.

How to get to the Southern California Association of Governments



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- Harbor Freeway (110) Exit on 6th Street, turn right on Flower.

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SCAG Main Office:
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SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION of GOVERNMENTS

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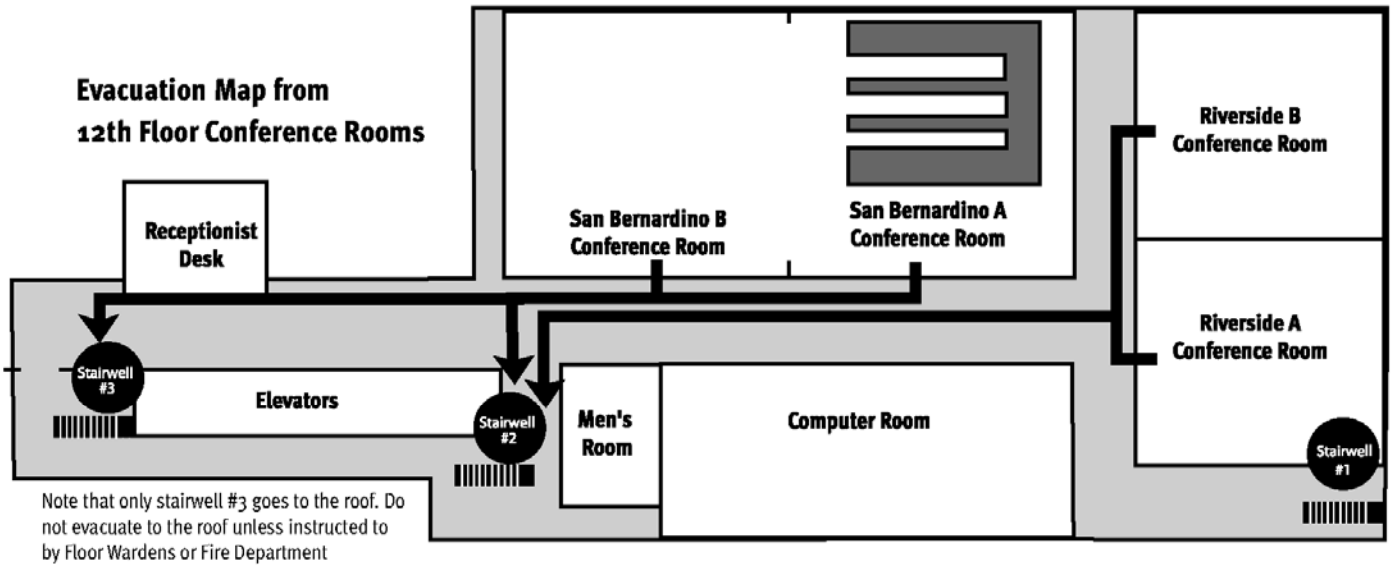

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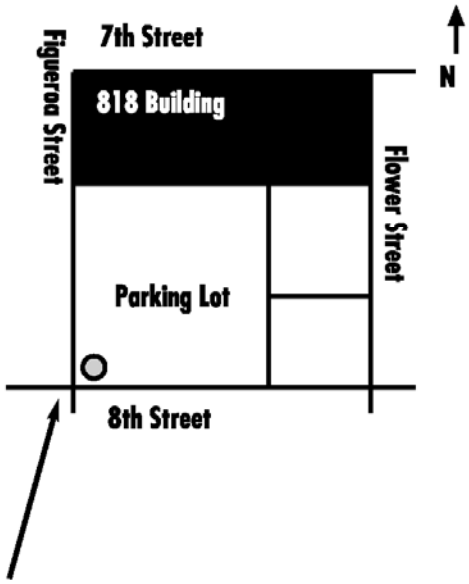

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
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AGENDA
WATER POLICY TASK FORCE
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS

February 12, 2004
10:00 a.m.
SCAG Offices: Riverside B Meeting Room

Page #

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

2.0 PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Members of the public desiring to speak on an agenda item or agenda items not on the agenda, but within the purview of this committee, must notify the Secretary and fill out a speaker's card prior to speaking. Comments will be limited to three minutes. The Chair may limit the total time for comments to twenty (20) minutes.

3.0 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approve the summary minutes of the September 18, 2003 and December 11, 2003 meetings. (Minutes will be distributed and available on the SCAG website prior to the meeting.)

4.0 PRESENTATION ITEMS FOR THE TASK FORCE

4.1 Update on the Calleguas Creek Watershed Management Plan, TMDL Development and Salt Management **6**

Don Kendall, General Manager of Calleguas Municipal Water District, will brief the Task Force on current Calleguas Creek Watershed Management Plan activities, including stakeholder efforts to develop comprehensive TMDL plans to control watershed pollutants and to model the watershed for improved management of salt loadings.

4.2 Report on the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project (SCCWRP) and its Water Quality Research in the Region **7**

Dr. Steve Weisberg, Executive Director of SCCWRP, will review with the Task Force the range of current activities being of this important research organization, giving particular emphasis to its on-going work on microbiology topics.

4.3 The Los Angeles River Trash TMDL Is Invalidated: Is It Time for New Innovations in Cost-Effective Pollution Control? **11**

On December 24, 2003 Superior Court Judge Wayne L. Peterson formally ruled that the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board failed to follow certain procedures in its preparation and adoption of the Trash TMDL for the Los Angeles River. As a result the TMDL has been invalidated, creating a new setting in which tributary cities can develop and implement pollution control measures. Several panelists will review issues and strategies affected by the litigation. Alternative approaches and policy adjustments will also be discussed, including those involving cost-effectiveness and source controls.

4.4 The Water Supply and Water Quality Provisions in the Programmatic EIR of the Regional Transportation Plan **13**

Jennifer Merrick, Associate Regional Planner, will brief the Task Force on the water supply and water quality provisions in the Programmatic EIR of the Draft Regional Transportation Plan, including proposed measures to mitigate the effects of transportation investments that are growth inducing.

4.5 Impacts of the State Budget Crisis on Adopted Water Bond Resources **19**

Martha Davis, Executive Manager of Policy Development at Inland Empire Utilities Agency and Co-Chair of the Watershed Subcommittee of the Bay-Delta Public Advisory Committee, and Rick Harter, Executive Director of the Los Angeles and San Gabriel Rivers Watershed Council, will brief the Task Force on the impacts of the state budget crisis on grant funding of water quality and other projects under the CALFED Watershed and other voter approved bond programs.

5.0 CHAIR'S REPORT

6.0 STAFF REPORT

7.0 TASK FORCE INFORMATION SHARING

A "Southern California Water Infrastructure" conference is being sponsored by the Water Resources Institute of CSUSB on February 26, 2004 at the Ontario DoubleTree Hotel. Information is available at (909) 880-5995 or http://wri.csusb.edu/.

8.0 COMMENT PERIOD

Any Task Force member, staff and members of the public desiring to comment on items not covered on the Agenda, within the Task Force's jurisdiction may do so at this time. Comments should be limited to three minutes.

10.0 ADJOURNMENT

MEMORANDUM TO THE WATER POLICY TASK FORCE

February 12, 2004

TO: ***Members of the Water Policy Task Force***

FROM: ***Daniel E. Griset, Sr. Regional Planner, X895, griset@scag.ca.gov***

SUBJECT: ***Update on the Calleguas Creek Watershed Management Plan, TMDL Development and Salt Management***

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive for future policy consideration.

BACKGROUND:

Don Kendall, General Manager of Calleguas Municipal Water District, will brief the Task Force on current Calleguas Creek Watershed Management Plan activities, including stakeholder efforts to develop comprehensive TMDL plans to control watershed pollutants and to model the watershed for improved management of salt loadings.

The Task Force has had previous briefings on the comprehensive watershed planning efforts underway in the Calleguas Creek Watershed, emphasizing the integrated approach being used to manage a mix of pollutants contributing to water impairments in this urbanizing area. The stakeholders in this watershed are pursuing a comprehensive, integrated approach in order to develop control measures that eliminate water impairments on a cost-effective basis.

Mr. Kendall will brief the Task Force on the progress being made with TMDL development in the watershed in recent months. Early in this process the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board proposed a chloride TMDL that sparked widespread opposition among stakeholders. Eventually the Board invited the watershed stakeholders to develop a comprehensive pollution management plan that addressed chlorides, along with the other identified pollutants of concern. The objective of this stakeholder driven process has been to eliminate all of the water impairments targeted in the state's 303(d) listing of impaired waters.

A key element in the Calleguas water quality strategy is salt management. This involves various levels of water treatment and the disposal of the brine resulting from the treatment process. In order to develop a cost-effective action plan the watershed stakeholders have begun a modeling program by which various pollutant trends can be hypothetically evaluated. Based on the way this modeling tool can analyze a wide range of variable conditions the stakeholders will be able to define policies, priorities and budgets for managing watershed salts and disposing of the brine waste stream.

MEMORANDUM TO THE WATER POLICY TASK FORCE

February 12, 2004

TO: ***Members of the Water Policy Task Force***

FROM: ***Daniel E. Griset, Sr. Regional Planner, X895, griset@scag.ca.gov***

SUBJECT: ***Report on the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project (SCCWRP) and its Water Quality Research in the Region***

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive for future policy consideration.

BACKGROUND:

Dr. Steve Weisberg, Executive Director of SCCWRP, will provide the Task Force with an overview of the current activities of this important research organization, along with a focus on work underway in the area of microbiology investigation and research. SCCWRP is a unique water quality entity in California because of its unique governance: it was created and is managed by the key regulatory agencies and water treatment organizations in southern California. While this combination of interests contains the potential for conflict and controversy, SCCWRP has demonstrated extraordinary success in its role as a jointly-formed research organization. In a complex policy environment where many are calling for "better science" SCCWRP is responding to these calls with research studies that help to fill in important gaps in public understanding of environmental realities and trends.

Dr. Weisberg, a biologist who specializes in the design of environmental monitoring programs, has been leading SCCWRP since 1996. He received his undergraduate degree from the University of Michigan in 1974 and his Ph.D. from the University of Delaware in 1981. His present research efforts focus on the development of coordinated, integrated, cost-effective regional monitoring in the Southern California Bight.

SCCWRP's work is organized into the following areas: Watersheds, Wetlands and Estuaries, Chemistry, Toxicology and Biology, and Integration and Assessment.

WATERSHEDS

Anthropogenic inputs to coastal watersheds and nearshore environments from land-based activities are numerous in the rapidly developing urban watersheds of southern California Bight (SCB). Previous SCCWRP research has shown that non-point inputs, such as urban stormwater discharges, are now exceeding inputs from traditional point source discharges. Despite this shift in relative inputs, scientists lack a comprehensive understanding of the mechanisms and processes that control stormwater sources and inputs, the fate and transport of stormwater pollutants once they enter receiving waters, and the ultimate interaction of these pollutants on the ecosystem. Hence, managers are left without the scientific underpinnings for making effective and efficient decisions for improving

water quality impacts associated with urban stormwater discharges.

SCCWRP has a 30-year history of conducting research on sources, fate, and transport of pollutants from a large variety of resources, including urban stormwater discharges. SCCWRP's ongoing dedication to developing a more complete understanding of stormwater mechanisms and processes is embodied in six projects in this year's research plan. These projects evaluate a range of potential impacts including effects due to flow, toxicity, and microbiological contamination. Our research also helps managers by evaluating sources of stormwater pollutants such as bacteria, nutrients, trace metals, and pesticides. Our research also aims to help managers in evaluating potential management actions by assessing structural controls and developing and validating dynamic watershed models that can be used for watershed planning and clean-up activities.

While we have a focus on non-point source research, we also continue to track trends in point source discharges and quantify the relative mass emissions among source categories. In addition, we recognize that the declining trends in POTW effluent emissions are resulting in increases in other types of discharges, such as solid waste, that can affect other environments. Moreover, we continue to research other, non-traditional sources of pollutants inputs that are typically not monitored or well-characterized. In this year's research plan, one of these sources will include the atmospheric deposition of pollutants to southern California watersheds.

WETLANDS AND ESTUARIES

Coastal southern California's estuaries, wetlands and riparian ecosystems are among the most diverse and productive habitats on the Pacific coast. In Southern California's arid environment, wetland and riparian areas often provide the only source of seasonal moisture, thereby providing critical habitat for many species. Estuaries, wetland, and riparian areas also provide hydrologic functions, such as flood flow attenuation and short and long-term surface water storage. Because of their position in the landscape, watershed derived pollutants are often sequestered in wetlands, riparian areas, and estuaries thereby serving as a natural treatment system.

Despite their importance to watershed functions, biodiversity, and human values, Southern California has experienced one of the highest relative losses of wetlands of any state in the country. More than 17 State and Federal agencies share responsibility for protection, restoration, or regulation of wetlands. However, coordination of a comprehensive wetland protection and recovery strategy has been hindered by a lack of understanding of the extent, distribution, and condition of wetlands and riparian areas. Managers require effective tools to begin answering fundamental questions related to wetland management.

In response to management needs, SCCWRP has launched a research program focused on developing and implementing tools to evaluate the condition of Southern California's estuaries, wetlands, and riparian areas. This year's research program includes continued technical support of the Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project, a partnership of Federal and State agencies working in concert with local government, environmental organizations, and scientists to develop and implement a comprehensive plan for preserving and restoring the region's wetlands. Specific programs designed to assist the Wetland Recovery Project include development of methods to map and inventory wetlands, as well as development of rapid, landscape-scale wetland assessment methods. The relationship between watershed loading and wetland condition is being evaluated by three studies of nutrient dynamics in estuaries and a new project investigating the relationship between water quality and

habitat functions in wetlands.

CHEMISTRY

Chemistry research at SCCWRP fills three important needs for managers in the SCB. The first is method development. SCCWRP scientists continually explore new and improved methods to measure contaminants of concern. The second need is exposure assessment, which is instrumental in understanding the mechanisms and processes that control the fate and effects of ocean-discharged pollutants. The third need is contaminant source tracking. When a manager identifies an impacted location, one of the first questions typically asked is what was the source of the pollutants found at that site. SCCWRP research projects actively pursue new source tracking tools to help answer this question in a variety of applications and for a variety of constituents.

This year's research plan address these three research needs. All four projects address elements of new method development. Particularly exciting are two projects that use solid phase microextration (SPME) for exposure assessment. SPME is a new method that has the potential to be an effective alternative to other, more costly in situ measurement methods for low level organic compounds in water. The third project will develop new methods for creating new environmental source tracking tools using isotope ratio analysis. The last project will assist method development by evaluating the stability of sediment samples held in the laboratory prior to analysis for organic constituents.

TOXICOLOGY AND BIOLOGY

One of the goals of water quality management is to ensure healthy biological ecosystems. However, determining if an ecosystem is "healthy" or "unhealthy" is often a difficult task due to the complex cycles of nature that confound anthropogenic and natural changes in biotic condition and abundance. SCCWRP has been building, testing, refining, and validating scientifically defensible assessment tools since the mid-1970s. The goal of assessment tool development is to differentiate anthropogenic impacts from natural variability in space and time. In this year's research plan, there are five projects that focus on assessment tool development including sediment quality objectives (SQOs), sediment toxicity identification evaluations (TIEs), and biological thresholds (biocriteria). SQOs can provide managers a tool to predict toxic or biological community impacts based on sediment chemistry information, which may serve as a useful first cut at assessing potential biological impairments. Sediment TIEs provide managers a tool for identifying the specific constituent(s) that result in toxicity, which will be useful because most sediment samples are comprised of a large mix of potential toxics. Biocriteria development will provide managers a tool for assessing healthy communities, which will be useful because many biological communities are complex ecosystems with potentially hundreds of species and thousands of individuals.

The remaining four thematic projects in this year's research plan investigate pollutant exposure and resulting bioaccumulation of contaminants. One project will focus on bioaccumulation in pelagic fish species. Although these species are common prey items of birds and marine mammals, they are rarely monitored for bioaccumulation. A second project is the emerging arena of hormonal disruption due to endocrine mimicking compounds (EMs). EMs are anthropogenically discharged compounds that are structurally or chemically similar to natural hormones and, therefore, upset the hormone balance in exposed organisms.

INTEGRATION AND ASSESSMENT

To make effective decisions, environmental managers need information about the cumulative effects of environmental disturbances and the relative importance of different pollution sources. Addressing

this need requires interdisciplinary studies. Part of SCCWRP's research is focused on interdisciplinary and integrative studies necessary to provide this information. One of these research areas is development of regional monitoring, which is designed to look beyond the effects of single sources to assess the "big picture" about the overall effectiveness of environmental control programs. SCCWRP is now actively involved in three projects that cover a large variety of habitats and indicators including offshore, nearshore, estuarine, and wetland regional monitoring programs for physical habitat, contaminant exposure, and biological response variables.

The second research area is providing facilitation among technical activities within thematic or programmatic arenas. One good example in this years research plan is integrating human health and recreational water use with water quality information through an epidemiological study. The third research area is integrating data among disparate monitoring programs to facilitate large-scale assessments of environmental quality. To this end, we are conducting a project that focuses on information management and development of analysis tools to help with data interpretation. As information technology improves each year, we are focusing our research on web-queriable capabilities of distributed data systems.

The fourth research area is in monitoring program development. For this year's research, we are designing a model urban stormwater monitoring program. Since stormwater monitoring needs depart significantly from most point source centered monitoring paradigms developed over the last three decades, this represents a technical challenge as managers struggle for the right types of information necessary to understand and improve urban runoff quality and reducing receiving water impacts.

MEMORANDUM TO THE WATER POLICY TASK FORCE

February 12, 2004

TO: ***Members of the Water Policy Task Force***

FROM: ***Daniel E. Griset, Sr. Regional Planner, X895, griset@scag.ca.gov***

SUBJECT: ***The Los Angeles River Trash TMDL and New Opportunities for Innovative and Cost-Effective Pollution Control Measures***

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive for future policy consideration.

BACKGROUND:

On December 24, 2003 Superior Court Judge Wayne L. Peterson formally ruled that the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board failed to follow certain procedures in its preparation and adoption of the Trash TMDL for the Los Angeles River. As a result of this decision the TMDL has been invalidated and referred back to the Board for additional work. (The Judgement and Writ of Mandate are attached.)

While this decision is a win for the plaintiffs, it remains at this writing still subject to further appellate action. And even if Peterson's decision stands, the trash problem affecting flows in the Los Angeles River continues to be a water quality problem requiring concerted action.

The following panelists will brief the Task Force on issues related to the Trash TMDL decision, trash management issues and prospective local agency actions:

Richard Watson, a stormwater management consultant to the Coalition for Practical Regulation (the plaintiffs in the case) will review the Peterson ruling and discuss trash control concepts being explored by cities in the Coalition that are tributary to the Los Angeles River.

Gerald Greene, a water quality specialist with the City of Downey, will discuss the continuing need for action on trash management among cities in this watershed, as well as other ideas for source controls and general fiscal sensibilities.

Don Wolfe, Chief Deputy Director of Public Works with the Los Angeles County, will discuss the impact of the Peterson decision on the County's trash management strategy, planning and implementation.

Shahram Kharaghani, Stormwater Manager for the City of Los Angeles, will discuss the City's response to the new judgement and writ of mandate. The City continues to implement

its efforts to comply with the Ballona Creek Trash TMDL, a program that is not affected by the invalidation of the Los Angeles River Trash TMDL.

MEMORANDUM TO THE WATER POLICY TASK FORCE

February 12, 2004

TO: ***Members of the Water Policy Task Force***

FROM: ***Daniel E. Griset, Sr. Regional Planner, X895, griset@scag.ca.gov***

SUBJECT: ***The Water Supply and Water Quality Provisions in the Programmatic EIR of the Regional Transportation Plan***

RECOMMENDATION:

Provide staff with comments for submittal to the Energy and Environment Committee.

BACKGROUND:

Jennnifer Merrick, Associate Regional Planner, will brief the Task Force on the water supply and water quality provisions in the Programmatic EIR of the Draft 2004 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), including proposed measures to mitigate the effects of transportation investments that are growth inducing. The public comment period on the PEIR concludes on February 9, 2004. The Energy and Environment Committee (EEC) will consider public and staff comments at its meeting on March 4, 2004.

Unlike previous PEIRs, this PEIR specifically characterizes transportation investments as growth inducing rather than growth accommodating. This, along with the Planning for Integrated Land Use and Transportation (PILUT) process, brought into the transportation study a variety of "new" impacts such as RTP impacts on water supply and water quality.

The impacts and related measures developed to mitigate these impacts are presented in draft form below for Task Force review and comment prior to the EEC meeting preparations this month.

Water Resources: Impacts, Mitigation Measures, and Residual Impacts

Impact 3.12-1: Local surface water quality would potentially be degraded by increased roadway runoff created by RTP projects, potentially violating water quality standards associated with wastewater and stormwater permits. These projects would potentially alter the existing drainage patterns in ways that could result in substantial erosion or siltation.

In addition to **Mitigation Measures (MM) 3.7-7a** and **MM 3.9-2a**, the following mitigation measures are recommended:
MM 3.12-1a: Transportation improvements shall comply with federal, state, and local regulations regarding storm water management. State-owned highways and other transportation facilities are subject to compliance with a statewide stormwater permit issued to Caltrans.

MM 3.12-1b: Project implementation agencies shall ensure that new facilities include water quality control features such as drainage channels, detention basins, and vegetated buffers to prevent pollution of adjacent water resources by polluted runoff. Wherever feasible, detention basins shall be equipped with oil and grease traps and other appropriate, effective and well-maintained control measures.
MM 3.12-1c: Project implementation agencies shall ensure that operational best management practices for street cleaning, litter control, and catch basin cleaning are implemented to prevent water quality degradation.
MM 3.12-1d: SWPPPs shall be submitted to the SWRCB when proposed transportation improvement projects require construction activities. In these activities BMPs shall be followed to manage site erosion and spill control.
MM 3.12-1e: Projects requiring the discharge of dredged or fill materials into U.S. waters, including wetlands, shall comply with sections 404 and 401 of the CWA including the requirement to obtain a permit from the U.SACE and the governing RWQCB.
MM 3.12-1f: Long-term sediment control shall include an erosion control and revegetation program designed to allow reestablishment of native vegetation on slopes and undeveloped areas.
MM 3.12-1g: Drainage of roadway runoff should, wherever possible, be designed to run through vegetated median strips, contoured to provide adequate storage capacity and to provide overland flow, detention and infiltration before it reaches culverts. Detention basins and ponds, aside from controlling runoff rates, can also remove particulate pollutants through settling.

The mitigation measures would not fully mitigate water quality degradation, violation of water quality standards, or prevent erosion or siltation. The impact remains **significant.**

Impact 3.12-2: Increased impervious surfaces due to transportation projects would reduce groundwater infiltration.

MM 3.12-2a: Project implementation agencies shall avoid designs that require continual dewatering where feasible.
MM 3.12-2b: Project implementation agencies shall ensure that projects that do require continual dewatering facilities implement monitoring systems and long-term administrative procedures to ensure proper water management that prevents degrading of surface water and minimizes adverse impacts on groundwater for the life of the project. Construction designs shall comply with appropriate building codes and standard practices including the Uniform Building Code.
MM 3.12-2c: Detention basins, infiltration strips, and other features to control surface runoff and facilitate groundwater recharge shall be incorporated into the design of new transportation projects.

Implementation of these mitigation measures would reduce the regional impact to **less than significant**.

Impact 3.12-3: The 2004 RTP would potentially increase flooding hazards, by placing structures, such as transportation investments, on alluvial fans and within 100-year flood hazard areas. The proposed 2004 RTP could alter existing drainage patterns or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner that would result in flooding or produce or contribute runoff water that would exceed the capacity of existing or planned storm water drainage systems.

In addition to **MM 3.7-6a** through **MM 3.7-6d**, the following mitigation measures are recommended:

MM 3.12-3a: Natural riparian conditions near projects shall be maintained, wherever feasible, to minimize the effects of stormwater flows at stream crossings.
MM 3.12-3b: Prior to construction, a drainage study shall be conducted for each new project. Drainage systems shall be designed to maximize the dissipation of storm flow velocities with the use of detention basins and vegetated areas, measures that will reduce storm flow risks to areas downstream of a project. Projects shall consider designs for the lateral transmission of storm water and other similar means to minimize the risks of upstream flooding
MM 3.12-3c: All roadbeds for new highway and rail facilities should be elevated at least one foot above the 100-year base flood elevation. Since alluvial fan flooding is not often identified on FEMA flood maps, the risk of alluvial fan flooding shall be evaluated and projects shall be sited to avoid alluvial fan flooding where feasible.
MM 3.12-3d: Transportation improvements shall comply with local, state, and federal floodplain regulations. Projects requiring federal approval or funding shall comply with Executive Order 11988 on Floodplain Management, which requires avoidance of incompatible floodplain development, restoration and preservation of the natural and beneficial floodplain values, and maintenance of consistency with the standards and criteria of the National Flood Insurance Program.
MM 3.12-3e: Improvement projects on existing facilities shall include upgrades to stormwater drainage facilities to accommodate any increased runoff volumes. These upgrades may include the construction of detention basins or structures that will delay peak flows and reduce flow velocities. System designs shall be completed to eliminate increases in peak flow rates from current levels.

After implementation of the mitigation measures, the 2004 RTP projects would regionally have a **less than significant** impact.

Cumulative Impact 3.12-4: Urbanization in the SCAG region will increase substantially by 2030. The 2004 RTP, by increasing mobility and including land-use-transportation measures, influences the pattern of this urbanization. The 2004 RTP's influence on growth would contribute to the conversion of undeveloped land to urban uses, resulting in impacts to water quality.

Mitigation Measures 3.12-1a through 3.12-1g shall be applied to all urban development projects, as feasible, in addition to the following measure.
MM 3.12-4a: SCAG shall continue to work with local jurisdictions and water quality agencies, through its Water Policy Task Force and other means, to encourage regional-scale planning for improved water quality management and pollution prevention. Future impacts to water quality shall be avoided through cooperative planning, information sharing and comprehensive pollution control measure development within the SCAG region. This cooperative planning shall occur during the update of the Water Resources and Water Quality chapters of SCAG's RCPG and through SCAG's Water Policy Task Force. This task force offers an opportunity for local jurisdictions and water agencies to share information and strategies to plan for water quality in the region.

The urban development expected by 2030 would create adverse water quality and waste discharge conditions and/or unfavorably alter existing drainage patterns in a manner that would result in substantial erosion or siltation. The 2004 RTP's influence on growth distribution is a cumulatively considerable contribution to this **significant impact.**

Cumulative Impact 3.12-5: Urbanization in the SCAG region will increase substantially by 2030. The 2004 RTP, by increasing mobility and by inclusion of land-use-transportation measures, influences the pattern of this urbanization. The 2004 RTP's influence on growth would contribute to the conversion of undeveloped land to urban uses, resulting in impacts to stormwater infiltration and groundwater recharge.

Mitigation Measures 3.12-2a through 3.12-2c shall be applied to all urban development projects, as feasible, in addition to the following measure.
MM 3.12-5a: SCAG shall continue to work with local jurisdictions and water agencies, through its Water Policy Task Force and other means, including the update of the Water Quality and Water Resources chapters for SCAG's RCPG, to encourage regional-scale planning for improved stormwater management and groundwater recharge. Future adverse impacts shall be avoided through cooperative planning, information sharing, and comprehensive implementation efforts within the SCAG region. SCAG's Water Policy Task Force offers an opportunity for local jurisdictions and water agencies to share information and strategies for improving regional performance in these efforts.

The urban development expected by 2030 would potentially affect stormwater infiltration and groundwater recharge. Future planning and implementation efforts may reduce the significance of this impact. However, given current conditions, the 2004 RTP's effects on stormwater infiltration and groundwater recharge would contribute to a **significant impact** on regional water resources.

Cumulative Impact 3.12-6: Urbanization in the SCAG region will increase substantially by 2030. The 2004 RTP, by increasing mobility and including land-use-transportation measures, influences the pattern of this urbanization. The 2004 RTP's influence on growth would contribute to the conversion of undeveloped land to urban uses, resulting in flooding hazard impacts.

Mitigation Measures 3.12-3a through 3.12-3e shall be applied to all urban development projects, as feasible.

Urban development expected by 2030 would potentially result in additional structures in areas with flood hazards. Future planning efforts may reduce the significance of this impact; however, to assume that all flood hazards would be avoided would be speculative. The 2004 RTP's effects on population distribution and its associated contribution to the impact of flooding hazards is **significant.**

Cumulative Impact 3.12-7: Urbanization in the SCAG region will increase substantially by 2030. The 2004 RTP, by increasing mobility and by including land-use-transportation measures, influences the pattern of this urbanization. The 2004 RTP's influence on growth would contribute to the need for increased wastewater treatment capacities in the region by 2030.

MM 3.12-7a: Local jurisdictions should encourage new development and industry to locate in those service areas with existing wastewater infrastructure and treatment capacity.
MM 3.12-7b: Wastewater treatment agencies are encouraged to have expansion plans, approvals and financing in place once their facilities are operating at 80 percent of capacity. Through the update to the Water Quality and Water Resources chapter of SCAG's RCPG, SCAG shall provide opportunities for information sharing and program development.
MM 3.12-7c: Local jurisdictions should promote reduced wastewater system demand by:

- designing wastewater systems to minimize inflow and infiltration to the extent feasible,
- reducing overall source water generation by domestic and industrial users,

deferring development approvals for industries that generate high volumes of wastewater until wastewater agencies have expanded capacity.

The mitigation measures would lessen the impacts on wastewater treatment capacity in the region; however, they are not expected to prevent an imbalance between the demand for regional capacity and existing regional capacity. The 2004 RTP would make a cumulatively considerable contribution to this **significant impact.**

Cumulative Impact 3.12-8: Urbanization in the SCAG region will increase substantially by 2030. The 2004 RTP, by increasing mobility and by inclusion of land-use-transportation measures, influences the pattern of this urbanization. The 2004 RTP's influence on growth would contribute to an increased demand for water supply and its associated infrastructure. Comparing 2030 demands to existing supplies does not fully reflect the ongoing water planning conducted by water agencies in the region. While existing supplies and infrastructure may not be sufficient to meet expected 2030 demands, most water agencies have plans in place to respond to future growth. However, the *existing* water supplies and infrastructure would not be sufficient to meet the expected demand in 2030.

MM 3.12-8a: SCAG shall facilitate local water agencies' informing local jurisdictions of their continued efforts to evaluate future water demands and establish the necessary supply and infrastructure, as documented in their Urban Water Management Plans.
MM 3.12-8b: SCAG shall facilitate local water agencies' informing local jurisdictions of their continued efforts to develop supplies to meet projected demand in 2030.
MM 3.12-8c: SCAG shall facilitate information-sharing about the kind of regional coordination throughout California and the Colorado River Basin that develops and supports sustainable growth policies.
MM 3.12-8d: Future impacts to water supply shall be minimized through cooperation, information sharing, and program development during the update of the Water Resources chapter of SCAG's *RCPG* and through SCAG's Water Policy Task Force. This task force presents an opportunity for local jurisdictions and water agencies to share information and strategies (such as those listed above) about their on-going water supply planning efforts, including the following types of actions:

- Minimize impacts to water supply by developing incentives, education and policies to further encourage water conservation and thereby reduce demand.
- Involve the region's water supply agencies in planning efforts in order to make water resource information, such as water supply and water quality, location of recharge areas and groundwater, and other useful information available to local jurisdictions for use in their land use planning and decisions. Provide, as appropriate, legislative support and advocacy of regional water conservation, supply and water quality projects.
- Promote water-efficient land use development.
- The Water Policy Task Force and the update to SCAG's *RCPG* present an opportunity for SCAG to partner with the region's water agencies in outreaching to local government on important water supply issues. SCAG provides a unique opportunity to increase communication between land use and water planners. The goals of the Task Force would not be to duplicate existing efforts of the water agencies.

Full implementation of these water supply mitigation measures would provide an adequate and

reliable future water supply and infrastructure. The various water agencies update their Urban Water Management Plans to ensure that planning for the water needs of future growth is accommodated in a timely manner. However, CEQA requires the determination of significance to be based on a comparison between *existing* water supply and infrastructure and expected future demand. Although ensuring a reliable water supply for urban and other water demands in 2030 is probable, the current, existing water supply and infrastructure would not be able to support the population in the Plan in 2030. Through its influence on regional growth, the 2004 RTP would make a cumulatively considerable contribution to this **significant impact**

MEMORANDUM TO THE WATER POLICY TASK FORCE

February 12, 2004

TO: ***Members of the Water Policy Task Force***

FROM: ***Daniel E. Griset, Sr. Regional Planner, X895, griset@scag.ca.gov***

SUBJECT: ***Impacts of the State Budget Crisis on Adopted Water Bond Resources***

RECOMMENDATION:

Subject to project selection by CALFED, direct staff to pursue an energetic inter-governmental effort to secure bond funding for the SCAG-led Information Sharing Water Quality project.

BACKGROUND:

Martha Davis, Executive Manager of Policy Development at Inland Empire Utilities Agency and Co-Chair of the Watershed Subcommittee of the Bay-Delta Public Advisory Committee, and Rick Harter, Executive Director of the Los Angeles and San Gabriel Rivers Watershed Council, will brief the Task Force on the impacts of the state budget crisis on grant funding of water quality and other projects under the CALFED Watershed and other voter approved bond programs.

Though the public has approved a number of bond measures that support new initiatives in watershed planning, it is not clear that these approvals will result in actual funding of new efforts. Projects may be selected for funding but remain unfunded until future fiscal conditions improve.

The issue of bond program funding has relevance to the Task Force: SCAG, in partnership with the Los Angeles and San Gabriel Rivers Watershed Council, has submitted an application for funding under the CALFED Watershed program to launch an innovative information sharing project. This project would create a system in which watershed agencies and stakeholders will be able to find and share information needed for targeting water quality problems and developing integrated environmental solutions. The SCAG application was submitted in the Fall with an expectation of a decision by the end of January 2004. As of this writing SCAG has not learned of a CALFED decision.

Attachment

Calleguas Creek Watershed: Conceptual Salts Model Paper

Attachment

Judge Peterson Decision: Judgement and Writ of Mandate